

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T THE HAGUE 636

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, NL, DA

SUBJECT: LOS - DANISH PROBE ON STRAITS

REF: THE HAGUE 635

1. DURING GENERAL DISCUSSIONS REGARDING GENEVA SESSION OF LOS CONFERENCE, DANISH REP LEIF REIMANN (MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) RAISED STRAITS ISSUE IN RELATION TO US CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES FOR UNILATERAL ACTION EXTENDING FISHERIES JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES. HE INQUIRED AS TO WHAT THE US FELT IT HAD QUOTE TO TAKE HOME UNQUOTE FROM THE GENEVA SESSION IN ORDER TO HEAD OFF PASSAGE OF SUCH LEGISLATION. WHEN US TEAM GAVE ANSWER BASED ON FISHERIES, REIMANN STATED DANISH VIEW THAT TIME WAS NEEDED TO SETTLE QUOTE SERIOUS ISSUES UNQUOTE, BUT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD US PROBLEM. HE THEN ASKED IF IT WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH TO BRING BACK FISHERIES BUT NOT STRAITS. US TEAM REPLIED EMPHATICALLY IN THE NEGATIVE, REFERRING TO OUR STATED PUBLIC POSITION AND AMB. STEVENSON'S SPEECH OF LAST SUMMER.

2. AT LUNCH REIMANN AGAIN BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF

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STRAITS, SUGGESTING THAT ONE WAY TO PROCEED IN GENEVA

WOULD BE TO VOTE EARLY ON ISSUES WHICH HAD GENERAL AGREEMENT, SPECIFICALLY THE TERRITORIAL SEA. HE INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER WE WOULD BE WILLING TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE AND LEAVE NEGOTIATION ON STRAITS ISSUE UNTIL LATER TIME. U.S. TEAM REITERATED STRONGLY US POSITION. REIMANN THEN RAISED ISSUE THIRD TIME PRIVATELY WITH HULL, POINTING OUT NEED FOR US TO SATISFY CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE IN ORDER TO PRESERVE OVERALL LOS TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. HULL RESTATED US POSITION AND REIMANN SAID QUOTE I WAS AFRAID SO UNQUOTE.

3. FYI: DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS ON MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (REFTEL), REIMANN REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES TO RECENT DANISH/SOVIET BILATERAL LOS DISCUSSIONS (REPORTED EARLIER BY OXMAN). FROM SCOPE OF HIS REMARKS, US TEAM SURMISED THAT TALKS WERE IN DEPTH AND COVERED FULL RANGE OF LOS ISSUES.
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